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PLYMPTON ST. MARY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1954

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

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*Committees of the Council concerned with matters of Public Health
are as follows :—*

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WORKS COMMITTEE
HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE
WATER COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Telephone No. : Plympton 2244

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. W. C. SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

DR. S. NOY SCOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

MR. R. T. FEDRICK, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

(Also Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and Petroleum Inspector)

Sanitary Inspectors :

MR. R. OSBORNE, M.S.I.A.

(Also Inspector of Meat and other Foods)

MR. E. R. SHEPHERD, M.S.I.A.

(Also Inspector of Meat and other Foods)

Clerk :

MISS G. H. PROWSE

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
of the
PLYMPTON ST. MARY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1954. The Report is drawn up as far as possible in accordance with Circular 28/54 of the 15th December, 1954.

There is a large decrease in the number of infectious disease cases notified during the period under review owing to the almost complete absence of Measles.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1955.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area—66,600 acres, of which 174 are inland water.

Population—1951 Census	...	...	...	...	...	31,820
Population estimated to the middle of 1954	...	...				31,800
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£202,525
Amount produced by a 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£818. 19s. 10d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1954

Live Births

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 14.05.
Legitimate	429	218	211	
Illegitimate	17	11	6	
	—	—	—	
	446	229	217	
	—	—	—	

Still Births 10 6 4 Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 21.92.

Deaths 410 199 211 Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12.89.

Deaths from Puerperal causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :

	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births</i>
No. 30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	1	2.19

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	24.66
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	23.31
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	58.82

Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	20.17
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	18.64
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	58.82

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	1954	1953
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	2	2	4	3
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	1
3. Syphilitic disease	1	—	1	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	1

CAUSES OF DEATH—*continued*

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	1954	1953
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1	—			
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	5	4	9	12			
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	7	4	11	14			
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	5	5	2			
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	4	4	4			
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	11	26	27			
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia... ..	—	—	—	1			
16.	Diabetes	2	2	4	3			
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	48	67	62			
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	43	14	57	53			
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	6	9	8			
20.	Other heart disease	20	44	64	70			
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	13	15	28	13			
22.	Influenza	—	1	1	2			
23.	Pneumonia	8	4	12	18			
24.	Bronchitis	7	5	12	10			
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	5	2	7	3			
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	1	5	3			
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	2	4	2			
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	4	1	5	7			
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	7	—	7	8			
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1	—			
31.	Congenital malformations ...	2	3	5	3			
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	24	25	49	56			
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	—	1	5			
34.	All other accidents	2	5	7	10			
35.	Suicide	2	2	4	6			
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	1			
		199	211	410	409			

Deaths over 65

There were 321, viz. : 38 between 65 and 70.

72	„	70	„	75
81	„	75	„	80
62	„	80	„	85
50	„	85	„	90
15	„	90	„	95
3	„	95	„	100

**PREVALENCE AND CONTROL
OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

The total number of notifications was 307, as compared with 975 during the previous year.

Scarlet Fever

26 cases were notified as compared with 37 during the previous year. Most of the cases occurred in the parish of Plympton St. Mary (15). The disease was of a very mild character.

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Acute Poliomyelitis

5 cases were notified (4 paralytic and 1 non-paralytic) and of these 4 were admitted to Hospital. The diagnosis was not confirmed in 1 paralytic case.

Disinfection

Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Council's employees under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

School Exclusions

During the year 67 notices were received referring to 260 children who were excluded from School because of communicable disease or because they were contacts in infected houses.

They were as follows : Scarlet Fever, 22 ; Chicken Pox, 132 ; Measles, 1 ; Whooping Cough, 70 ; Impetigo, 12 ; Mumps, 3 ; Ringworm, 1 ; Acute Poliomyelitis, 10 ; German Measles, 6 ; Conjunctivitis, 2 ; Jaundice, 1.

Tuberculosis (*see pages 11 and 12*)

With regard to the extent of notification before death, the following table shows the date of notification :—

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Date Notified</i>	<i>Died</i>
<i>M</i>	56	9.7.49	31.5.54
<i>F</i>	46	3.5.45	4.9.54

The remainder were not notified in this district previous to death.

PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE FOR YEAR 1954.

DISEASE.	Bickleigh	Brixton	Cornwood	Ermington	Harford	Holbeton	Ivybridge	Newton and Noss	Plympton St. Mary	Plympton St. Maurice	Plymstock	Shaugh Prior	Wembury	Yealmp-ton	Totals
SCARLET FEVER	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	15	2	5	1	1	1	26
ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	5
PNEUMONIA	1	8	1	3	1	1	2	3	9	3	3	1	1	3	36
ERYSIPELAS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	10
WHOOPING COUGH	1	1	3	4	1	2	5	21	35	8	105	11	7	21	224
MEASLES	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	4
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTALS	1	9	4	9	1	4	10	24	65	16	119	12	9	25	307

TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1954.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES						DEATHS						Total No. of Deaths
	PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			Total No. of Cases
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Under 1 Year ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 ...	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
5-10 ...	1	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
10-15 ...	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
15-20 ...	2	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
20-25 ...	1	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
25-35 ...	4	3	7	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
35-45 ...	5	1	6	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	6
45-55 ...	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
55-65 ...	1	1	2	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	3
65 and upwards	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTALS ...	16	12	28	2	3	5	2	2	4	-	-	-	33
													4

With regard to Tuberculosis affecting employees in the milk trade, no case had to be dealt with, nor had any action to be taken with regard to the compulsory removal to Hospital under Section 172, Public Health Act, 1936.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Nursing Arrangements.—(Devon County Council). There are now 10 District Nurse/Midwives working in the area and 1 General Trained Nurse. Supervision is carried out by the County Nursing Officer.

Midwives.—The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease. In addition to the 10 County Midwives there are 2 Private Midwives practising in the area. All 10 County Midwives are qualified to give Gas and Air Analgesia.

Health Visitors.—There are three working in the Plympton Area, who carry out all duties under Section 24 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Devon County Council have six centres in the District: Plympton, Plymstock, Ivybridge, Yealmpton, Hooe and Turnchapel, and Roborough.

Venereal Diseases Clinic.—At the Venereal Disease Dept., South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre.

Where on account of the difficulty of travelling or other reason a patient is unable to attend the Centre, free treatment can be obtained from certain specified general practitioners who have been approved by the Ministry of Health under Circular 2226.

In-patient Orthopaedic Treatment is available through the Devon Orthopaedic Association at Exeter, and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. For Out-Patients the South-West Clinic which deals with this district is held at Hartley House, Mannamead, Plymouth.

X-rays.—The Regional Hospital Board have apparatus for examinations at their Chest Clinics at Exeter, Torquay, Barnstaple and Plymouth.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases are admitted at any time to the Treatment Centre, South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.

Tuberculosis.—The Regional Hospital Board have Sanatoria at Hawkmoor, Hawley and Didworthy.

Open-Air School.—The Devon County Council maintain a residential home for the rehabilitation of delicate and delibitated children at Oaklands Park, Dawlish. There is also an open-air school for delicate children at Torquay.

General Hospitals, used by residents :—

South Devon and East Cornwall, Greenbank Road, Plymouth.

„ „ Devonport.

„ „ Lockyer Street, Plymouth.

„ „ Freedom Fields, Plymouth.

The Royal Eye Infirmary, Plymouth.

Underwood House Hospital, Plympton.

The Convalescent Home, Crownhill.

Plymouth Public Dispensary.

Isolation Hospital.—Cases of infectious disease are sent to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth. As in general hospitals, no charge is now made for maintenance either to the District Council or the patient.

Ambulance Facilities for Infectious Cases.—The Minister of Health has agreed to infectious patients being taken to the Isolation Hospital by the Plympton Ambulance Station.

Non-Infectious Cases and Accidents.—As from 1st January, 1951, an Ambulance Station was established at Harewood House, Plympton, by the Devon County Council through the agency of the British Red Cross Society, and deals with all cases and accidents.

Laboratory Work.—The Public Health Laboratory Service established a new laboratory in the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank Road, Plymouth, on June 3rd, 1953, for the investigation of communicable disease and for the examination of milk, water, ice cream and foodstuffs. We have received the greatest assistance and co-operation from this service.

Consultants.—Consultants are now obtained through the services of the Regional Hospital Board.

Vaccination and Immunisation are carried out through the general practitioner service, or at schools, school clinics and infant welfare centres by the County Council through the County Health Services.

Provision of Vaccine and Anti-Toxin.—Supplies of diphtheria antigen can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, 45 St. David's Hill, Exeter, and vaccine lymph from the Public Health Laboratory Service, 7 Dix's Field, Exeter.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No cases were dealt with during the year.

FLOODING AND FLOOD RELIEF WORK

The heavy rains at the end of November resulted in severe flooding of low lying properties in many parishes of the Rural District. The total number of properties affected was approximately 110, in 75 of which the damage was moderate to severe. Some properties were flooded to a depth of 4 feet and in some cases the floods were repeated during the following seven to ten days.

For some considerable time the normal duties of the Department were suspended to enable relief to be brought to those in need.

Every property affected was visited by a member of the Department and issues of disinfectant were made.

Arrangements for the opening of Emergency Rest Centres were made, these were not however required.

Comforts, loaned or given by the British Red Cross Society and others, were distributed to those in need by the Department, and the drying out of the most badly affected properties by Engine Heaters supplied by the Royal Air Force was supervised.

Continuous watch was kept on the situation during the period of high tides and heavy rain which followed the initial flooding and

this included standby duty at the Emergency Control established at Police Headquarters.

A considerable amount of work was also carried out in connection with the administration of the Flood Distress Fund established by the Council.

WATER SUPPLY

Main Supplies.—These are obtained from Yealm Head, Erme and Ivybridge. All these waters are chlorinated and treated with lime to correct pH value.

During the year the Erme Scheme was brought into full operation.

The Council considered and accepted a report by the Water Engineer on the improvement of the distribution system and the ultimate abandonment of the use of local springs at Shaugh, Wotter, Yealmpton, Brixton Torre, Venton, Westlake and Mount Pleasant. During the period under review two of these, to wit Shaugh and Wotter, have already been abandoned.

It is estimated that of the houses in the District

85% are served by mains,

10% by standpipe,

5% from private sources.

and the population served is in approximately the same proportions.

Water Sampling

During the year 132 samples were taken. 120 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and 12 samples for chemical analysis.

The following table shows the results of the samples taken from the three main supplies :—

Supply	No. of samples taken	Presumptive Coliform Count per 100 ml.			
		Class 1 (less than 1)	Class 2 (1–2)	Class 3 (3–10)	Class 4 (Greater than 10)
IVYBRIDGE ...	39	22	3	1	13
PLYMPTON ...	35	30	2	—	3
YEALM HEAD ...	27	26	—	1	—
OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SUPPLIES ...	19	5	—	3	11
TOTALS ...	120	83	5	5	27

12 samples from the main supplies were submitted for examination for plumbo solvency, to ensure that the preventive measures to restrain corrosive action were effective.

Water supplies to the various parishes are as follows :—

Bickleigh. Supplied from mains of Plymouth Corporation.

Brixton. Supplied from Council's Yealm supply. Most of the houses have piped supplies. There are two standpipes in the village.

Brixton Torre, Coombe and Hornicombe are small places supplied by a local spring piped to standpipes.

Cornwood. Supplied from Yealm source, most of the houses have a piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Lutton. Supplied from Yealm source, most of the houses have piped supply. There are six standpipes in the village.

Ermington. Supplied from Erme supply. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Westlake and Longbrook are supplied by well and pump.

Harford. Few houses—have own supply from spring (private).

Holbeton. Supplied from local springs, piped to village. A few houses have a piped supply, but most of the cottages are supplied from standpipes. The local supply has been improved by the construction of an additional reservoir of 10,000 gallons capacity. During the year the whole village has been maintained and improved supplies given. Daily consumption has risen from 3,500 gallons to 5,000 gallons per day.

Ivybridge. Supplied from Ivybridge Reservoir and also Erme supply. Most houses have piped supply.

Newton and Noss. Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply.

There are ten standpipes at Newton Ferrers, and five standpipes at Noss Mayo which supply the older cottages.

Plympton St. Mary and Plympton St. Maurice. Supplied from Erme and Yealm sources. Most of the houses have piped supply.

Sparkwell. Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes which supply the older cottages.

Lee Mill. Supplied from Erme supply. Some of the houses have piped supply. There are seven standpipes in the village.

Mount Pleasant and Venton. Supplied from local springs by pump and standpipes.

Plymstock. Supplied from Erme and Yealm sources. Most of the houses have piped supplies. There are six standpipes at Lower Hooe and Turnchapel.

Staddiscombe. Some of the cottages have piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Shaugh Prior. Supplied from Erme source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are four standpipes in the village.

Wotter. Supplied from Erme source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are four standpipes which supply cottages of English Clays Ltd.

Wembury. Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Down Thomas. Supplied from Yealm source. Most houses have piped supply.

Yealmpton. Supplied from local springs, augmented from Yealm source in dry periods. Most houses have piped supply. There are eight standpipes in the village.

Dunstone. Supplied from local springs. Several cottages have piped supply. There are five standpipes in the village.

All the villages consisting of more than a dozen houses have a piped supply.

All supplies are constant except Elburton and Newton Ferrers where steps are being taken to augment supplies thereto, but these cannot be made effective until the Ministry of Housing and Local Government agree a scheme now before them.

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the following details of work carried out in his Department during the year, in relation to Public Health.

Water Supply

Water main extensions at :—

Newton Ferrers.

Cadleigh Park.

Shaugh Prior.

Woodford Estate.

Grange Estate.

Hooe Manor Estate.

Great Northerton.

Colebrook.

Erme water supply completed and in full operation.

WATER CONNECTIONS 1954

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Connections during 1954</i>			<i>Total connections as at 31.12.54</i>		
	<i>Normal</i>	<i>Metered</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Normal</i>	<i>Metered</i>	<i>Total</i>
Brixton	6	2	8	208	22	230
Cornwood	1	2	3	205	8	213
Ermington	1	2	3	115	18	133
Harford	—	—	—	—	1	1
Holbeton	—	—	—	98	10	108
Ivybridge... ..	2	6	8	578	48	626
Newton and Noss...	10	1	11	451	25	476
Plympton St. Mary and St. Maurice	170	5	175	2642	129	2771
Plymstock	119	5	124	3269	135	3404
Shaugh Prior	2	3	5	54	8	62
Wembury	9	2	11	281	45	326
Yealmpton	20	1	21	211	20	231
TOTALS	340	29	369	8112	469	8581

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Plympton Sewage Disposal Works commenced.

Schemes prepared and submitted to Ministry for Yealmpton (Part 2) and Ermington.

Refuse Disposal

Tipping completed Cot Hill.

Tipping commenced Linketty Lane.

During the the year a weekly collection of household refuse has been afforded to the whole district with the exception of a very few isolated properties.

PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF NON-COUNCIL HOUSES DURING 1954

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of Plans Approved</i>	<i>Repre- senting No. of Houses</i>	<i>Houses Com- pleted</i>	<i>Layout Plans Approved</i>
Brixton	7	12	4	—
Cornwood	1	1	—	—
Ermington	1	1	—	—
Ivybridge	2	2	3	—
Newton and Noss	15	15	11	1
Plympton St. Mary... ..	42	188	116	3
Plympton St. Maurice	9	9	7	—
Plymstock	60	126	73	7
Shaugh Prior	3	3	—	—
Wembury	12	15	5	—
TOTAL	152	372	219	11

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 357
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 991

(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	337
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	931
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	26
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	246
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—			
		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	14
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—			
A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—			
(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a)	By owners	—
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners...	—
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—			
(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
- (a) By owners —
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners... —
- C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —
- D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

I am indebted to the Housing Officer for the following information.

Pre-War Housing. The number of houses completed and occupied up to the commencement of the war in 1939 was 367, excluding houses transferred to Plymouth.

Post-War Housing. The number of houses completed and occupied during the post-war period up to December 31st, 1954, is as follows :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Name of Site</i>				<i>Number of Dwellings</i>
Bickleigh	...	...	Leatside (Roborough)	...	8
Brixton	...	...	Bellows Park	... ..	56
					(including 2 shops)

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Name of Site</i>					<i>Number of Dwellings</i>
Cornwood ...	...	Newtown	...	...	...	6
Do. ...	...	Crossways	...	...	...	16
Ermington ...	...	Ermeside Cottages	...	...	...	6
Holbeton ...	...	Orchard Cottages	...	...	...	8
Do. ...	...	1 and 2 Fore Street	...	...	...	2
Ivybridge ...	...	New Estate	...	...	...	108
						(including 2 shops)
Newton and Noss ...	...	Hillside Cottages	...	...	...	6
Do. ...	...	Butts Park	...	...	...	20
Plympton St. Mary	...	New Park (Lee Mill)	...	...	...	10
Do. ...	...	George Avenue	...	...	...	20
Do. ...	...	Woodford	...	...	...	114
						(including 1 shop)
Plympton St. Maurice	...	New Estate	...	...	...	174
						(including 2 shops)
Plymstock ...	...	Pomphlett Close	...	...	...	60
Do. ...	...	Hooe Estate	...	...	...	94
						(including 2 shops)
Do. ...	...	Hooe Manor Estate	...	...	...	8
Do. ...	...	Wembury Road (Elburton)	...	...	...	26
Shaugh Prior	...	Trethewey Gardens (Wotter)	...	...	...	30
Wembury ...	...	Uplands	...	...	...	6
Yealmpton ...	...	Yeo Park	...	...	...	6
Do. ...	...	Yealm Park	...	...	...	38
<i>Total Dwellings</i> ...						<u>822</u>

The number of houses under construction at the 31st December, 1954, is as follows :—

Brixton ...	...	Bellows Park	...	...	...	14
Plympton St. Mary	...	New Park (Lee Mill)	...	...	...	6
Plymstock ...	...	Hooe Manor Estate	...	...	...	128
<i>Total Dwellings</i> ...						<u>148</u>

Further contracts in course of preparation are as follows :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Name of Site</i>					<i>Number of Dwellings</i>
Ivybridge ...	...	New Estate	...	...	...	10
Plymstock ...	...	Oreston	...	...	...	36
Shaugh Prior	...	Lee Moor	...	...	...	24
Yealmpton ...	...	Yealm Park	...	...	...	24
<i>Total Dwellings</i> ...						94

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	38	25	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	109	40	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
<i>Total</i>	147	35	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	2	3	-	1	-
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...	-	2	-	2	-
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7) :	2	2	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient ...	-	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total</i> ...	4	8	-	4	-

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1954

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit the following report on the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year ending the 31st December, 1954.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR

INSPECTIONS

Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	...	...	20
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts, 1925 to 1936	...	337	
Visits in connection with Council house applications	...	189	
Factories	... ..	54	
Food Premises	... ..	488	
Slaughterhouses, butchers' shops, farms, etc.	...	837	
Dairies	... ..	23	
Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936	...	63	
Infectious Disease Investigations	... ..	46	
Complaints investigated	... ..	217	
Schools inspected	... ..	8	
Camps inspected	... ..	4	
Rodent Control	... ..	15	
Drainage Work	... ..	202	
Total number of visits for all purposes during the year	...	4057	

WORK DONE

Public sewers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Private sewers laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New drains laid to sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
New drains laid to cesspits	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Old drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Smoke tests made	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Water tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
W.c. Compartments built	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
New W.c. pans fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Flushing cisterns fixed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Soil pipes and vent-shafts—erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Gully traps fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Lavatory basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Baths fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Kitchen sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Defective roofs renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Plasterwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Ceilings renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Kitchen ranges or firegrates repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Staircases repaired or lighted and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Courts, yards, or passages paved	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Gutters and downspouts repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Floors repaired, renewed, or sub-floor ventilation obtained	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Water supplies improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Samples of water taken for chemical and bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
Larders	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

HOUSING

Housing Inspections. See table in Medical Officer of Health's section of the Report.

Rural Housing Survey. In connection with the report on Rural Housing prepared by a Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee, and Ministry of Health Circular 64/44, the total number of houses inspected since the commencement of the Survey is 4,255.

During the year 333 houses were inspected and placed in the following categories :—

Category 1.	Satisfactory in all respects	...	...	12
Category 2.	Minor defects	...	...	51
Category 3.	Requiring repair, structural alterations or improvement	...	...	246
Category 5.	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	...	...	24

Slum Clearance. Three houses in a Clearance Area, the Clearance Order of which was confirmed by the Minister of Health in 1938, were demolished.

Demolitions. Six properties in a very bad condition were demolished by arrangement with the owner.

Housing Act, 1949. In September, 1953, the Council decided to operate Section 20 with respect to Improvement Grants. During the year twenty-one applications for Grant were received. Improvements were carried out in respect of seven houses, four are in hand, and ten are to be carried out in 1955.

Nine applicants were informed their applications would be unlikely to be approved by the Council.

In addition, forty-two other enquiries were received and advice given. As the Act is becoming more widely known the number of applications is increasing considerably.

COUNCIL HOUSE APPLICATIONS

Interviewing of Council House Applicants has continued throughout the year. Visiting and re-visiting has involved a total of 189 visits of inspection, and in addition, a large number of applicants have been interviewed in the office.

Additionally, seven visits have been paid to applicants for accommodation with other Local Authorities, principally the City of Plymouth.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

It is the duty of every Local Authority to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who dies or is found dead in their area, in any case where it appears that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made. It was necessary to do so once during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1952

This Act came into operation on the 1st April, 1952, It is necessary for a person keeping a Pet Shop to be licenced by the Council. Three licences were granted during the year.

FIREGUARDS ACT, 1953

This Act came into operation on 1st October, 1953. The Act and the Orders and Regulations made thereunder make provision for the fitting of guards of approved type to all heating appliances.

All appliances manufactured after 1st October, 1953, must comply with the provisions of the Act and the provisions apply to all fires, etc., sold by retail after 1st October, 1954.

Visits have been paid to all known dealers in such appliances and the provisions have been explained to them.

RODENT CONTROL

In connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, no charge was made for work carried out at private dwellings, but the full cost of work at business premises was recovered.

Co-operation has been maintained with the officials of the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and their advice is always appreciated.

Annual Test Baiting was carried out in April in thirty-one sewerage systems. As a result it was necessary to carry out a maintenance treatment in May in eighteen systems. The second maintenance treatment was carried out in October in eighteen systems.

Details of the work carried out during the year can be seen from the table.

In addition, inspections were made as follows :—

Local Authority Properties, 122 ; Private dwellings, 1479 ; Agricultural Holdings, 179 and Business Premises, 185.

The work was carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator, assisted part time by another workman in the Department.

The methods advocated by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the extermination of rats and mice were used, the bait bases being damp sausage rusk, bread mash, oatmeal and sugar meal, and the poisons Zinc phosphide, arsenious oxide, red squill powder, Antu (alpha-naphthylthiourea) and Warfarin.

FOOD

As a result of the decontrol of meat in July, 1954, it became the duty of the Council to ensure that reasonable slaughtering facilities were available in the District.

A Conference was held at the Council Offices on the 31st March, 1954, to which all the butchers operating in the District, representatives of the National Farmers' Union and two firms of Auctioneers were invited. Information was obtained from the butchers as to their probable requirements regarding slaughterhouse accommodation.

Five applications were received and, after the necessary repairs had been carried out, five licences were granted. Later in the year one licence was surrendered, but another application was received in respect of another slaughterhouse and a licence granted.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				(5) <i>Agri- cultural</i>
	(1) <i>Local Authority</i>	Non-Agricultural			
		(2) <i>Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)</i>	(3) <i>All other (including Business Premises)</i>	(4) <i>Total of Columns (1), (2) and (3)</i>	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District. (Notes 1 and 2)	40 <i>(approx.)</i>	10,500 <i>(approx.)</i>	525 <i>(approx.)</i>	11,065 <i>(approx.)</i>	635 <i>(approx.)</i>
2. Number of <i>properties inspected</i> as a result of:					
(a) Notification	15	135	6	156	—
(b) Survey under the Act	21	1,589	165	1,841	210
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	4	20	7	31	8
3. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	115	1,783	220	2,118	241
4. Number of <i>properties</i> inspected (in Section 2) which were found to be <i>infested</i> by :					
(a) Rats { Major	2	—	—	2	—
{ Minor	21	295	9	325	5
(b) Mice { Major	—	—	—	—	—
{ Minor	—	15	3	18	—
5. Number of <i>infested properties</i> (in Section 4) treated by the Local Authority (figures should NOT exceed those given at Section 4)	23	310	12	345	3
6. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments	—	—	—	—	—
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of “block” control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

Extensive alterations were carried out at one slaughterhouse including the enlarging of the existing slaughterhouse and the building of a new cooling room.

During the year visits were made as follows :—

Slaughterhouses ...	...	783
Butcher Shops ...	...	52
Cottagers ...	...	2
		—
<i>Total</i> ...		837
		—

The following carcasses were inspected :—

Bulls ...	...	1
Cows ...	...	174
Heifers	...	123
Steers	...	121
Calves	...	112
Sheep	...	997
Pigs ...	...	6686
		—
<i>Total</i> ...		8214
		—

The total weight of carcasses and organs found to be diseased, and consequently voluntarily surrendered, was 10 tons. 5 cwts. 1 qr. 6 lbs.

Diseased meat, etc., is collected by arrangement and converted into glues and fertilisers.

Milk

The number of dairies and distributors registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, are as follows :—

Dairies	...	17
Distributors	...	28
		—
		45
		—

Twenty-three visits of inspection were made during the year.

The following licences were issued to dealers under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, during the year :—

Dealers' Licences	...	...	T.T.	...	14
			Pasteurised...		17
			Sterilised	...	4
			Accredited	...	1
Supplementary Licences	...	...	T.T.	...	5
			Pasteurised...		5
			Sterilised	...	2

Other Foods

The following table indicates the number of food premises in the area, by type of business :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	11
Butcher Shops	...	...	...	...	...	25
Fishmongers and Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	12
Ice Cream	(a) Manufacturers	2	}	...	...	98
	(b) Sale	96		...	...	
General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	134
Dairies	(a) Distributors	33	}	...	...	53
	(b) Dairies	20		...	...	
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	21
Hotels, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	61
						415

The number of food premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are as follows :—

The manufacture of Ice Cream for sale	...	2
The sale of Ice Cream	...	96
The manufacture of Preserved Food	...	46
		144

488 visits were made to food premises during the year, and a total weight of 5 cwts. 1 qr. 18 lbs. of food condemned as unfit for human consumption.

During the year six premises were registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale or manufacture for the purpose of sale of ice cream, and two for the preparation and manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

Fifty-three samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows :—

PROVISIONAL GRADINGS

<i>Time taken to reduce</i>					
<i>Grade</i>	<i>Methylene Blue</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>			<i>Result</i>
1	4½ hrs. or more	Satisfactory	...	...	36
2	2½ hrs.—4 hrs.	Fair	...	...	8
3	½ hr.—2 hrs.	Unsatisfactory	...	...	8
4	0 hrs.	Very bad	...	...	1
					—
					53

Byelaws made under Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are in force in the Rural District. Minor contraventions were detected, but these were quickly rectified when the shopkeepers were notified.

PETROLEUM SPIRIT AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM LICENCES

The undermentioned figures apply to the period from the 1st April, 1954, to the 31st March, 1955.

Petroleum Spirit

Number of licences renewed during the above period	...	71
Number of new licences issued during the above period	—	
Number of licences transferred	... ..	2

Carbide of Calcium

Number of licences renewed during the above period ... Nil

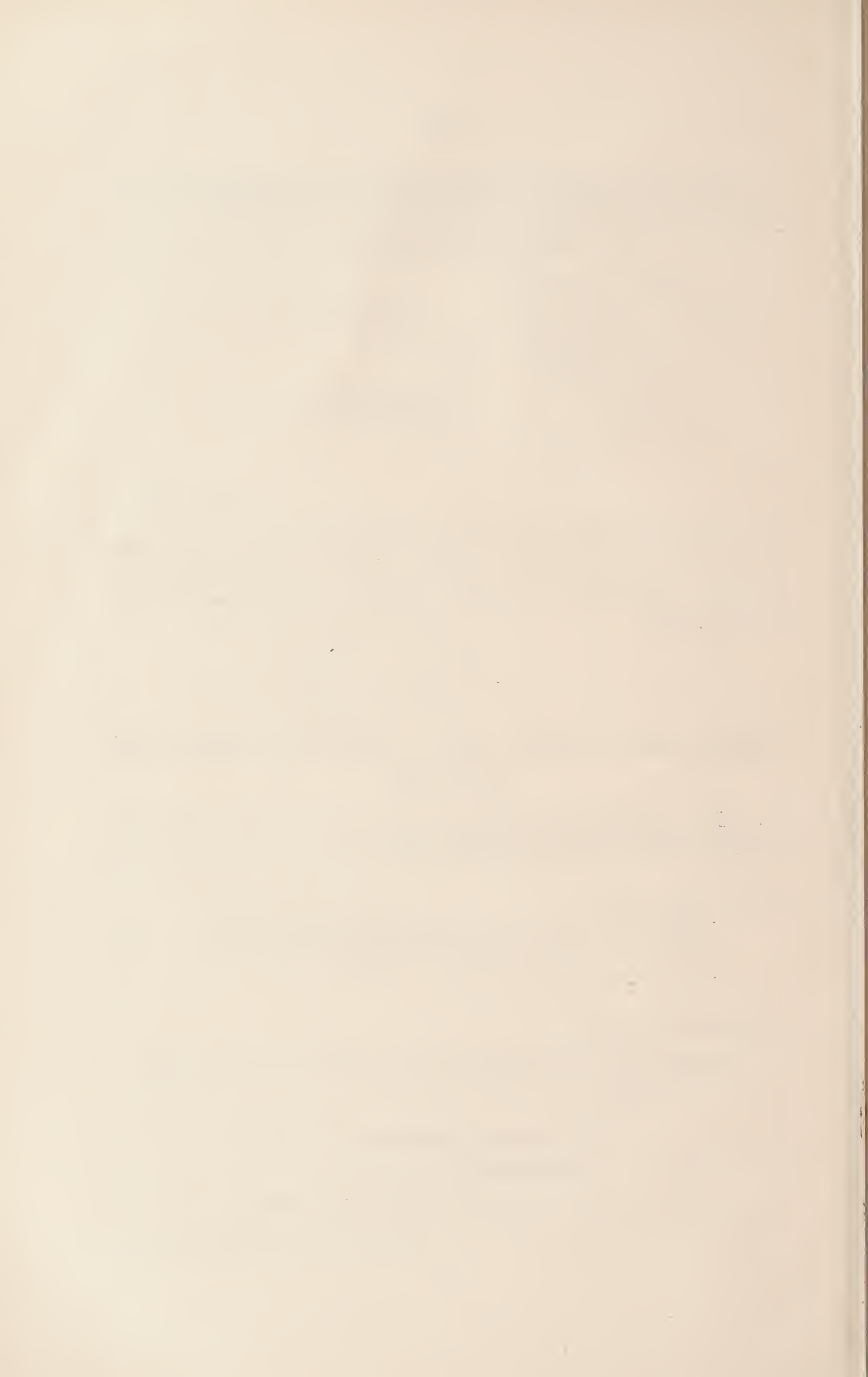
I remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. T. FEDRICK,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



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